### 18. Prohibition of Cow-slaughter.

MR. C. NARAYANA BHATTATIRI (*Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla*) prayed that the Government should, in consideration of the following facts, prohibit by law the slaughter of cows within the State. The killing of a cow was a great sin in the eyes of the Hindu. Cows, which provide manure for the fields and give oxen for the plough, deserved special protection in this essentially agricultural country. Milk being an almost indispensable article of human food, even selfishness should dictate a policy of cow-protection in order that an adequate, pure and cheap supply might be ensured. Cattle were formerly more prized than land and the cow had always been held as specially sacred. It was not proper to kill or permit the killing of such a useful animal as the cow. It was to be regretted that, in this State, where there was a law to prevent cruelty to animals, cows were allowed to be butchered for use as food. Cow-slaughter had been prohibited even in a non-Hindu State like Hyderabad; and Travancore should at least follow where other Indian States had led.

DEWAN: I can understand the repugnance to the practice of cow-slaughter felt by a certain section of the people. This is a matter which people should voluntarily refrain from as a result of enlightenment. One accustomed to slaughter of animals will feel that the matter is not quite so simple. It is not purely a matter of sentiment alone. It is a matter which involves very complicated issues; cows are slaughtered by the members of many communities in the land and it is not in the opinion of the Government a matter in which they can interfere by enacting a law. The question was examined very carefully in its different aspects by the Legislative Council when a resolution for the prohibition of cow-slaughter was brought forward. After a lengthy discussion, the resolution was thrown out.

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### 19. Cattle Trespass.

MR. J. R. VINCENT (*Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association*) represented that, for a considerable time past, the members of his Association had been suffering from the damage done to crops by herds of untended cattle and goats. Government had latterly established a cattle pound and opened a grazing ground. Those measures were not giving adequate relief as it was impossible to drive herds of cattle and goats to the long distances necessary to have them impounded and as the fines inflicted on owners of straying cattle were too small to have any deterrent effect. The member therefore requested the Government to give power to the District Magistrates to authorise the owners of estates to open and maintain cattle pounds at their own cost, and also to enhance the amount of fines leviable. The grazing ground contained a strong growth of jungle and it was necessary to arrange for the jungle trees and undergrowth being cut down twice a year for three or four years until grazing grass had grown. The damage done by trespassing cattle to valuable grafted rubber plants was enormous and the Government should help in removing the grievance.

DEWAN: The District Magistrate of Devicolam, who had been asked to report on this matter on the complaint of the Mundakayam Planters' Association, has brought to the notice of Government that there is necessity for opening one more catte pound in the locality as the existing pounds in Mundakayam are situated at great distances and that the rates of fine should be doubled. The District Magistrate has been asked to forward a sketch showing the position of the existing pound and the localities in which the additional pound should be located and also to give an estimate of cost of the new pound. You want the Government to give you powers to open pounds on your estates and levy fines. That is a somewhat different question.

MEMBER: Whenever I said fines, what I naturally meant was the amount payable now by owners of cattle. Some had to pay 4 annas per head. That is not in a way difficult and 8 annas as indicated by the legislature is quite sufficient.

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DEWAN : The District Magistrate has already recommended the doubling of the rates. Government will consider that matter.

As regards the opening of additional pounds, the District Magistrate has recommended the establishment of one more pound, and the Government, intending to deal with the question in a comprehensive way, asked the District Magistrate to say how many more pounds were necessary and to forward a full report. The report of the District Magistrate has since been received and it is seen therefrom that the Association would like to have eight more new pounds established at the following places :—

| *Devicolam Division.* | *Kottayam Division.* |
|---|---|
| 1. Manikal estate. | 5. Nenmeny. |
| 2. Boyce estate. | 6. Kuttikal estate. |
| 3. Mundakayam estate (2 pounds) | 7. Teckoy estate. |
| 4. Cheruvalli. | |

The Secretary of the Association has also stated that the members of the Association would be prepared to meet the cost, etc., of the upkeep of the pounds and to put up the necessary buildings and that their delegate to the S. M. P. Assembly would give further details, if necessary. We have the necessary information about additional pounds. Now the question resolves itself into this, namely whether these pounds should be constructed and managed by the Government, or whether you should construct and maintain them and levy the fees prescribed. I am not in a position to answer that question at once. I will examine that question and say whether the Government should establish and manage these pounds taking from you the deficit, if any, or whether they could be handed over to the estates staff, they being declared to be pound keepers and empowered to distrain as well as release cattle on the recovery of fines. That point will be examined.

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### 20. Registration of Bullock Carts.

MR. J. R. VINCENT (*Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association*) urged the necessity for the registration of bullock carts. The carelessness and malpractices of cart drivers were well-known ; and their ignorance of the rules of the road should be remedied by subjecting them, as in Ceylon, to a *viva voce* examination when the license was granted. To detect offenders easily, owners should be obliged to have the license number or their name and address prominently displayed on the cart. It was anomalous that only motor vehicles should be registered. Traffic conditions had changed so radically within the past twenty years that it had become urgently necessary to provide for its better and more careful regulation and control. Large numbers of vehicles running at great speed were on the roads, and it was essential to extend the rules relating to the registration of vehicles in towns and those observed by motor vehicles to embrace every class of vehicle whether in the town or the country. The member concluded by stating that his proposal had the hearty approval of the other delegates of Planting Associations present at the Assembly.

DEWAN : The question that you have raised is a very important one. It must be admitted that the conditions of vehicular traffic have changed considerably during the last twenty years and that, after the introduction of motor transport, traffic conditions have altered considerably. The difficulty, however, consists in enforcing the rules in the mofussil. In towns, we, no doubt, register all kinds of vehicles partly because they are liable to vehicle tax.

MEMBER : Is there any objection to this being extended to the mofussil ?

DEWAN : I cannot see much objection except that it will involve a large establishment. It is an expenditure which perhaps will necessitate some taxation, and that will be resented very much. These are the matters which have to be considered. Secondly, if you lay down rules for the people owning and driving carts as to how they should overtake carts and pass them, those that do not obey the rules must be

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